

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 /022 W

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R 112106Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7196

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6785

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN PHOTOGRAPHER ARRESTED IN COUP AFTERMATH

1. A QUITO PHOTOGRAPHER-JOURNALIST WHO FILMED A DOCUMENTARY OF THE ABORTIVE COUP SEPT. 1 WAS ARRESTED BY THE GOE AND CHARGED BY THE FORMER MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT WITH WITHHOLDING EVIDENCE BY CENSORING THE FILM.

2. GEN. GUILLERMO DURAN, WHO SCREENED THE DOCUMENTARY SEPT. 5, THREE DAYS BEFORE HE WAS REPLACED AS MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT IN A CABINET SHUFFLE, SAID AUGUSTIN CUESTA HAD OFFERED TO SELL THE GOVERNMENT A 40-MINUTE DOCUMENTARY FOR 100,000 SUCRES (\$4,000), BUT THE FILM HE WAS SHOWN LASTED ONLY TEN MINUTES AND A SCENE "REALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE GOVERNMENT" WAS MISSING.

3. CUESTA ISSUED A PRESS STATEMENT FROM A JAIL CELL SEPT. 10 DENYING HE HAD OFFERED THE FILM FOR SALE, BUT THE STATEMENT DID NOT MENTION CENSORING THE FILM PRIOR TO SCREENING IT FOR DURAN. CUESTA CHALLENGED DURAN TO NAME THE PERSON WHO HAD REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT TO BUY THE FILM. "I AM AN HONEST JOURNALIST AND DO NOT LIVE BY BLACKMAIL," HE SAID.

4. DURAN SAID CUESTA WOULD BE HELD UNTIL THE ENTIRE FILM WAS TURNED OVER TO AUTHORITIES. HE SAID HE WAS SURE IT
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EXISTED WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE MATTER IN A PRESS CONFERENCE.

THE EMBASSY WAS TOLD THAT A SCREENING HAD BEEN HELD EARLIER FOR OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (SENDIP) OF THE COMPLETE DOCUMENTARY.

5. A USIS LOCAL STAFFER WHO SAW THE FULL FILM SAID CUESTA HAD MADE A NUMBER OF CLAIMS REGARDING ITS CONTENT WHICH COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED. THE CLAIMS INCLUDED:

A. THE ARREST OF GEN. RAUL GONZALEZ ALVEAR, LEADER OF THE REBELLION. THE GOE FORMALLY DENIED GONZALEZ HAD EVER BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

B. THE OFFICIAL VEHICLE OF THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR PASSING BY THE PICHINCHA THEATER, NEAR THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, WHERE THE TROOPS INVOLVED IN THE BATTLE WERE REPORTEDLY HELD AFTER THE GOVERNMENT FORCES GAINED CONTROL. GONZALEZ OBTAINED POLITICAL ASYLUM AT THE CHILEAN EMBASSY LATER THE SAME DAY.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, JOURNALISTS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750316-0058
From: QUITO
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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